

NOVEMBER 15, 2012

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Present were: CAMPBELL, GIBBS, WARRUM, STRAW, and WALKER along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Nathan Maudlin.

The following visitors were present: Pam Robinson, Connie Weinzapfel, Andre Parrent, Vicki Campbell, Joseph Hall, Don Williams, Gail & Jim Norton, Barb McConnell, Mark Bookout, Betty Gibbs, Johnathon Scott, David Flanders, Jeanne Maudlin, Dave Eller, Rupert Conduct, Erik Arneberg, Bobby Grider, and Scott Champlin.

Councilman Straw made and Warrum seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular and special meetings be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Walker announced the Town is seeking a new wastewater treatment plant operator. The position will be advertised.

Councilman Straw reported the roof at the new fire station is being replaced due to hail damage.

Gas/street superintendent Bobby Grider reported the newest of the Town's water wells has been down approximately 2 ½ months. There has been an issue with getting a motor for the well. IDEM has scheduled a visit and their input will be sought on options for the well.

Park Board President Jeanne Maudlin announced 187 trees have been planted toward the goal of 200 trees for the Bicentennial. She also reported one of the new trees was run over at Murphy Park. The tree may be replaced by Hillside Nursery.

Park Board President Maudlin stated she loves the trail and she feels it is a wonderful recreational opportunity.

President Campbell thanked Park Board President Maudlin and the rest of the Park Board members for all their hard work.

Gas/street superintendent Grider reported the chipper truck was out of service but has been repaired. The leaf vacuum has broken down but should be back in service soon.

Councilman Warrum thanked Sheriff Greg Oeth for sending inmates to help spread mulch at Playtopia and also to help with leaf pick-up.

Historic New Harmony Director Connie Weinzapfel reported on a Bicentennial contest where architects were invited to submit proposals based on Harmonie society single family homes. The winner of the contest was Rupert Conduct. To get the mechanical drawings so a complete set of plans could be given to the Town, the engineering department at USI was enlisted. Dave Eller, engineering instructor, and the primary student who worked on the project, Joseph Hall, were present at the meeting. Mr. Hall presented copies of the preliminary drawings to Council. He, along with Mr. Eller, reviewed some of the details and background of the project. Mr. Conduct, who was also present at the meeting, discussed some of the research he had done when designing the home.

President Campbell presented Ordinance 2012-10. This ordinance amends the salaries of elected officials effective January 1, and establishes a salary range for the water/sewage superintendent. Councilman Straw made and Gibbs seconded a motion that Ordinance 2012-10 be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Straw made and Gibbs seconded a motion that no changes be made to the employees health insurance for 2013. All were in favor. Motion carried

President Campbell stated there has been some confusion on the status of phase two of the recreational trail. Ray McConnell, who has taken the lead on the project, dropped off some larger maps, easements, and detailed drawings on the project to President Campbell. President Campbell stated Council needs to decide whether to allow the project to continue or not. A grant of \$150,000. has been awarded for the project, and an anonymous donation of approximately \$50,000. has been made to Harmonie Associates also. President Campbell pointed out the trail will not go under the bridge.

Council members discussed the proposed route of the trail and reviewed the maps. It was noted the existing trail is approximately 2.5 miles, and the proposed phase two is 1.6 miles. Councilman Warrum asked for an estimate of the maintenance costs for the existing trail. The information was not readily available. It was noted golf cart fees are designated to be used for trail maintenance.

Councilman Warrum stated she has spoken to several people in Town and some feel that with the existing trail and the fact that golf carts can be driven anywhere in Town, is the additional trail needed, and is now the right time to do it. She expressed concern over the maintenance costs and the number of workers the Town has to do the maintenance.

Councilman Straw expressed concern over not having the needed easements in writing, and also he feels the proposed section is not scenic. He continued that he has taken care of the trail for the last few years, and much of the maintenance has been paid by FEMA due to flooding. He feels the maintenance costs have been \$13,000. to \$14,000.

Councilman Walker commented part of the proposed trail is not in the Town limits, and the Town can't control what goes on there.

Councilman Gibbs stated he is concerned about the manpower the Town currently has and putting more work on them.

President Campbell commented this project was started by a previous Council who thought it was a good idea at the time.

At the request of President Campbell, Erik Arneberg stated the easements needed from Indian Mound Farm, though only approved verbally at this time, would not be an issue.

Councilman Straw made and Gibbs seconded a motion that the trail project be terminated. All were in favor except President Campbell. Motion carried.

Don Williams commented he does not think the Council's decision on the trail is forward thinking. He feels that whatever Council signed has a contractual obligation to maintain the trail. He stated he would like to see the trail completed, and he feels the maintenance on the new section would be less.

Jeanne Maudlin stated she is sorry Council has decided to terminate the trail project and she is surprised maintenance is an issue. Mrs. Maudlin commented that Council is charged with appointing citizen volunteers to serve on boards, and a citizen volunteer had worked for years on this project. She thanked Ray and Barb McConnell for all their hard work. Mrs. Maudlin commented she hopes Council hasn't shot themselves in the foot in trying to get interested, educated, and community-loving citizens who are willing to give their time and talents to the promotion of the community.

Erik Arneberg requested that Council allow him to register his Polaris Ranger as a golf cart. He has tried to register it with the BMV, but has not been able to. It was agreed that the vehicle does not meet the definition of a golf cart. Town Marshal Scott Champlin stated he has spoken to the BMV in Indianapolis and was told it can be registered as a slow moving vehicle. Councilman Straw recommended that Mr. Arneberg go to a BMV location in Evansville, or register it on-line. It was also suggested that he check with another gentleman in Town who owns a similar vehicle.

Mark Bookout, with NewWave Communications, offered his assistance with some security equipment at Murphy Park. There was discussion on the Town working with NewWave as both have lines attached to the White County Bridge. Mr. Bookout reported his company has installed a wireless network in New Harmony that serves mainly the downtown area. A device may access the network for no charge for up to two hours a day. Those wishing to use the service longer have an option to pay a fee.

David Flanders, on behalf of the Business Associates, expressed concern that there is not a "bridge closed" sign at Crossville. Jim Stinson has contacted the Illinois Dept. of Transportation to request a sign. Mr. Flanders asked if someone from the Town could follow up. President Campbell agreed to contact INDOT to see if they can communicate with the IL Dept. of Transportation. Town Marshal Champlin suggested that another sign be requested for New Harmony since many trucks seem to be missing the existing one.

Councilman Gibbs mentioned that the park could be closed to vehicular traffic as done in the past to help curb vandalism.

Councilman Straw made and Warrum seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Walker responded to the comments made by Don Williams and Jeanne Maudlin about the trail. She stated Council had wanted to make modifications to the trail but they were told they could not unless the grant was relinquished. Councilman Walker continued there were parts of the trail she could not approve. Several people, both for and against the trail were talked to, and the decision was not taken lightly. She feels there is a lot of forward thinking with this Council and things are under control.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

David Campbell, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer